

# Frequently Asked Questions about Smoke Alarms and Extinguishers

## **What kind of fire extinguisher do I need, and where do I put it?**

The required type of fire extinguisher varies. Contact Fire & Life Safety Prevention Bureau at 317-327-6006 or email [Margie.bovard@indy.gov](mailto:Margie.bovard@indy.gov)

## **Does the Fire Department fill fire extinguishers?**

The Indianapolis Fire Department does not service or refill fire extinguishers. Look for a fire extinguisher service company (fire protection equipment) or purchase a new extinguisher.

## **How often should a fire extinguisher be replaced/serviced?**

### **Business**

If an extinguisher is brand new, it needs to be visually checked monthly by the business owner and have it serviced annually. Every 6 years a full servicing should be done, and every 12 years a hydrostatic test should be done. It is often a better deal to buy a new extinguisher at the 6 and 12 year marks.

### **Residential**

There are no requirements for personal residences, but it is recommended that they be visually checked every year to make sure there are no cracks or rust and to make sure the pin is still in the green. After 10 years or so the extinguisher should be replaced.

Visit our [fire extinguisher page](#).

## **Do I need a carbon monoxide detector?**

Only if you have a gas fired appliance in your home.

## **What if I smell Gas in my home?**

You will need to get out of the house and then call 9-1-1 for the Fire Department from outside of the house or from a neighbor's house. The use of a phone could cause the gas to ignite if you called from inside the house.

### **What type of smoke alarm do I need?**

Per the city ordinance passed in April 2014 – all homes in Marion County are required to have at least 1 - 10 year sealed battery smoke detector in their home.

There are several name brands available including Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and Factory Mutual (FM). Smoke alarms are available for the hearing impaired and can be purchased through your local fire equipment companies. It's important that you follow the manufacturer's recommendations for installation, testing and maintenance. Visit our [smoke alarm web page](#).

### **My smoke alarm is chirping, what does that mean?**

Most modern smoke detectors will chirp to alert you the batteries are low, you should replace the batteries and test your smoke detector. Smoke detectors can be purchased at any hardware or large commercial department store.

### **How often should I change the batteries in my smoke alarm?**

We recommend you change the batteries in your smoke alarm every 6 months, an easy way to remember is to change batteries when you reset your clock for daylight savings time.